

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099108
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ/P:DAO'DONOHUE
APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

-----030055Z 100459 /63

P 022148Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099108

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

1. ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SIK PAID COURTESY CALL ON
UNDER SECRETARY HABIB ON APRIL 29.

2. DURING CALL, KIM ASKED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT TROOP
WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HABIB REPLIED THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT
HAD SAID, WE INTENDED TO WITHDRAW OUR GROUND TROOPS
OVER A FOUR TO FIVE YEAR PERIOD. WHEN WE HAVE WORKED OUT
OUR PLANS IN DETAIL, WE EXPECT TO CONSULT WITH THE ROKG
IN THE JUNE PERIOD ON THIS ISSUE.

3. KIM RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, ASKING THAT WE SHOW
PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO ALLOW
ROKG TIME TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO HANDLE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS. HABIB NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAD RAISED HUMAN
RIGHTS QUESTION DURING KIM'S CALL ON HIM EARLIER IN THE
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WEEK. HABIB WANTED TO BE SURE THAT KIM UNDERSTOOD THAT
WE HAD IN FACT SHOWN RESTRAINT IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS
BUT THAT TIME FOR MOVEMENT ON ISSUE WAS RUNNING OUT. IT
WAS IMPORTANT THAT KIM GET THIS MESSAGE BACK TO PRESIDENT
PARK.

4. KIM SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE BLUE HOUSE

ABOUT HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY. KIM ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE WAS AN IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HABIB REPLIED THAT THE MYONGDONG TRIAL CASE HAD BECOME A KEY SYMBOL IN THE U.S. EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9 WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. AMERICANS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY EM-9 IS NECESSARY OR WHY SIGNERS OF THE MYONGDONG STATEMENT HAD TO BE JAILED. THEY VIEW THE ROKG AS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG AND STABLE TO WITHSTAND THE KIND OF CRITICISM WHICH IS NOW BEING SUPPRESSED.

5. TURNING TO DEFENSE ISSUES, KIM SAID THAT HE HAD TOURED THE ADD FACILITY AT TAEJON AND HAD BEEN TOLD BY DIRECTOR SIM THAT THE USG HAD RECENTLY TURNED DOWN A ROK REQUEST TO PURCHASE AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT. (DIRECTOR SIM WAS UNDOUBTEDLY REFERRING TO THE IBM COMPUTER.) KIM HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO KOREA'S NEED TO GET DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY. HABIB SAID THAT WE WERE FULLY AWARE OF KOREA'S NEEDS; AT THE SAME TIME PRESIDENT CARTER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THAT THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE LIMITS ON WHAT THE U.S. WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS A MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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